



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

REGION 2
290 BROADWAY
NEW YORK, NY 10007-1866

SEP -5 2018

The Honorable John E. Brooks
Senator, 8th District
Legislative Office Building - Room 513
Albany, New York 12247

Dear Senator Brooks:

Thank you for your May 22, 2018 letter to President Donald Trump which has been referred to me, the Regional Administrator of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), for response. In your letter you request the federal government's financial commitment to support the cleanup and containment of the groundwater contamination plume related to the Northrop Grumman/U.S. Naval Weapons Industrial Reserve Plant located in Bethpage, NY.

The New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (NYSDEC) has the lead regulatory role with respect to this site. The U.S. Navy and Northrop Grumman Corporation are the parties that are responsible for the groundwater remediation efforts at the site. In addition, the EPA has an oversight role under the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act and has been working closely with the NYSDEC on cleanup activities at the site.

Numerous actions have been taken to control the sources of contamination at the Navy/Northrop Grumman facility. Groundwater extraction and treatment systems are currently operating and have been designed to contain and treat contaminated groundwater. These systems are preventing any remaining groundwater contamination from migrating beyond the facility itself. However, the EPA, the NYSDEC and the Navy agree that additional efforts are necessary to address downgradient hot spots and groundwater plume migration. The Navy and the Northrop Grumman Corporation are continuing their efforts to address these areas of concern that are serving as sources of ongoing contamination. The EPA is working closely with the NYSDEC and its ongoing efforts to ensure that the contaminant plume is contained and that the plume is remediated in its entirety.

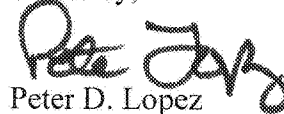
Several years ago, the EPA initiated quarterly review meetings with the key stakeholders at the site; the goal of these meetings is to improve cooperation, coordination and communication, as well as to expedite the site cleanup. These meetings are attended by representatives from the EPA, NYSDEC, the New York State Department of Health, the Navy, Northrop Grumman, Massapequa Water District, South Farmingdale Water District, Bethpage Water District and the Town of Hempstead Water Department. In 2017, the NYSDEC assumed the lead role in coordinating these meetings.

The cleanup work at this site is ongoing, and the federal government is committed to working with the State of New York and local communities to ensure that the remediation is successful in protecting public health and the environment. If you have further questions, please contact me at (212) 637-5000 or your staff may contact Sophia Rini, Chief of Intergovernmental and Community Affairs, at (212) 637-3670 or rini.sophia@epa.gov.

Senator -

Hope this is
helpful. Please
feel free to
call at any time.

Sincerely,



Peter D. Lopez
Regional Administrator